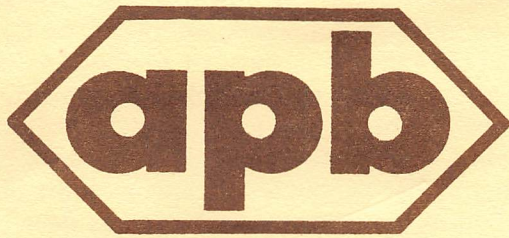


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ENERGY PLANNING UPDATE

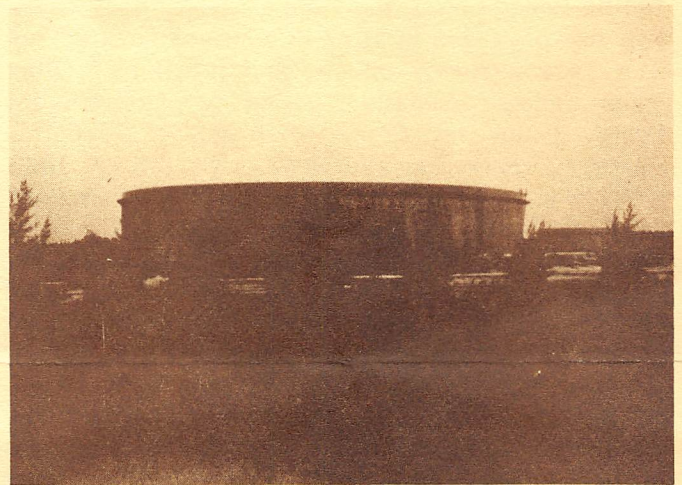
ENERGY STUDY CONTINUES

This year the Area Planning Board of Palm Beach County will complete the final phase of a two year investigation into the energy situation within Palm Beach County. This study was funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1978, the Energy Planning Base Study: Interim Report was published (see APB Forum Volume 12, Number 7, September 1978). This document detailed the development of an energy planning base methodology for Palm Beach County and provided local data on the energy situation within the County for the first time. The focus of the study was on identifying the energy resources used within the County and denoting what experimental alternative energy sources might be utilized.

In 1979, the focus of the Energy Planning Base Study: Final Report is three-fold: 1) to expand the energy data base for Palm Beach County established in the Interim Report, 2) to document and analyze the energy policies of the federal, state, and regional levels of government which have an impact on the County, and 3) to develop an areawide energy plan. It is the aim of the entire Energy Planning Base Study to provide a simplified and cohesive view of the energy situation within the County along with a workable data base and policy alternatives upon which local governments can develop sound energy plans.

ENERGY SURVEY

The APB conducted a survey of all the local governments within Palm Beach County for the purpose of determining the extent that energy conservation/efficiency is being addressed. The survey investigated such items as local awareness of higher level governments' policies and actions and what is being done locally to implement energy conservation. Twenty-



The FPL tank farm located off I-95 in West Palm Beach is typical of the construction of new energy facilities which results from increased energy demand spurred on by population growth.

nine (29) responses to the survey were received which indicated the following results. Twenty-one (21) local governments have adopted either the Florida Energy Efficiency Building Code or Appendix J of the Standard Building Code. Twenty-five (25) stated an awareness of Florida's energy conservation policies and plans. Twenty-one (21) local governments indicated knowledge of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's recently adopted Regional Energy Policy Plan. Fourteen (14) stated they knew of the Palm Beach County Energy Advisory Board while only twelve (12) were aware of the Regional Energy Action Committee.

The results of this survey indicated that local governments within the County are responding to the need to conserve energy by adopting ordinances aimed at reducing energy consumption. It is also apparent that there is a greater need for more interaction

between all levels of government within the State on energy issues. There is also a need for increased awareness of locally active energy boards and committees, as documented by the few governments who were aware of the two local energy advisory bodies. To further the educational process, these two organizations are discussed briefly in the following section.

ENERGY POLICIES AND ACTIONS

This is a nation of laws and nowhere is this statement more prevalent today than in the area of energy legislation. Some of the considerations being addressed regarding energy and energy resources are production, distribution, consumption, pricing, planning, research and development, emergency measures, efficiency standards and environmental conservation measures.

At the Federal level, the Federal Department of Energy was organized in 1977 to coordinate and administer Federal energy policies and programs. Other major federal legislation passed to date are the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976, and the National Energy Act of 1978 which is comprised of five (5) bills; (the National Energy Conservation Policy Act, the Public Utilities Regulatory Act, the Natural Gas Policy Act, Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act, and the Energy Tax Act). The Department of Energy has also prepared a National Energy Plan.

At the State level, the Florida State Energy Office was created within the Department of Administration in 1975. The State Energy Office's responsibilities are similar to those of the Federal Department of Energy. To date, the State has prepared a State Energy Conservation Plan pursuant to the Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Additionally, the Florida Legislature has adopted an Energy Element to the State Comprehensive Plan. Presently under consideration for adoption is the Florida Energy Emergency Contingency Plan, pursuant to the Federal Disaster Preparedness Act of 1974. Additionally, State law presently requires local government to adopt an energy efficiency code. To date, as indicated in the APB survey, several municipalities and the unincorporated County have complied with this mandate.

Regionally, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has prepared and adopted a Regional Energy Policy Plan. The Council is working closely with the Region X Regional Energy Action Committee. This citizens committee was organized in 1975 by the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide local input regarding energy matters to the State Energy Office in preparation of state policies and plans.

Locally, many governments within Palm Beach County are actively involved in energy conservation pro-

grams. This was denoted in a recent APB survey. Palm Beach County is also fortunate to have an active Energy Advisory Board, this board was elected by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners in 1974 for the purpose of advising and making recommendations on matters relating to energy usage within the County. The Energy Advisory Board, in cooperation with the County Civil Defense Energy Coordinator, has conducted an energy audit of Palm Beach County government and also has developed a Home Energy Savings program. This program provides residential energy audits to residents upon request. Additionally the Energy Advisory Board also is the County Energy Emergency Panel which would help advise in times of severe fuel shortages.

ENERGY USE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

The energy study discusses both non-renewable and renewable sources of energy used in Palm Beach County. The non-renewable energy resources are those currently in widespread use within the County. They include petroleum, natural gas, liquid petroleum gas (L.P.), and the secondary source, electric power. The renewable sources of energy are those which also can be termed experimental since at this time most can not be considered economically feasible. These include solar, wind, solid waste, and ocean related energies.

Palm Beach County, like all of Florida, utilizes a vast amount of energy. With virtually no exceptions, the County relies totally on energy sources "imported" from outside its boundaries. Despite actual or projected declines in per capita consumption of such energy sources as electricity (petroleum), natural gas and liquefied petroleum (LP) gas, total energy consumption of the County is expected to increase. This reflects, in part, continued population growth. Also this reflects such factors as continued dependence on the automobile as the principal form of individual transportation, lack of adequate mass transit facilities, the sheer physical distances involved in a County of this size, and "urban sprawl". Additionally, the annual influx of tourists, the majority dependent on automobiles for transportation, will directly influence total County energy consumption.

Non-renewable energy sources (fossil fuels) currently provide virtually all forms of energy used within the County. The principal problems associated with continued reliance on this fuel category include increasing per unit prices, anticipated depletion of reserves, instability of supply, and environmental degradation through pollution. These fuels have formed the traditional basis for the physical, economic, and social development of the County. It is anticipated that the availability of these energy sources will continue to directly influence County development in the near future until alternative sources are developed, tested, proved reliable and placed in service in sufficient quantity.

One major component of the County's non-renewable energy profile is its consumption of petroleum products, especially gasoline. County consumption of gasoline has steadily escalated and has averaged 6.5% per year since 1970. In 1970 about 150 million gallons of gasoline were consumed, by 1978 that figure increased to 258 million gallons (see Chart below). The commercial, industrial, and public sector, as well as most individuals within the County are very dependent on this energy source for transportation. Relative abundance of gasoline has been a major factor in the development of the area. However, considering current reduction in availability of gasoline, this trend will probably change. But for the near future, automobiles will continue to have a major impact on the County's energy situation.

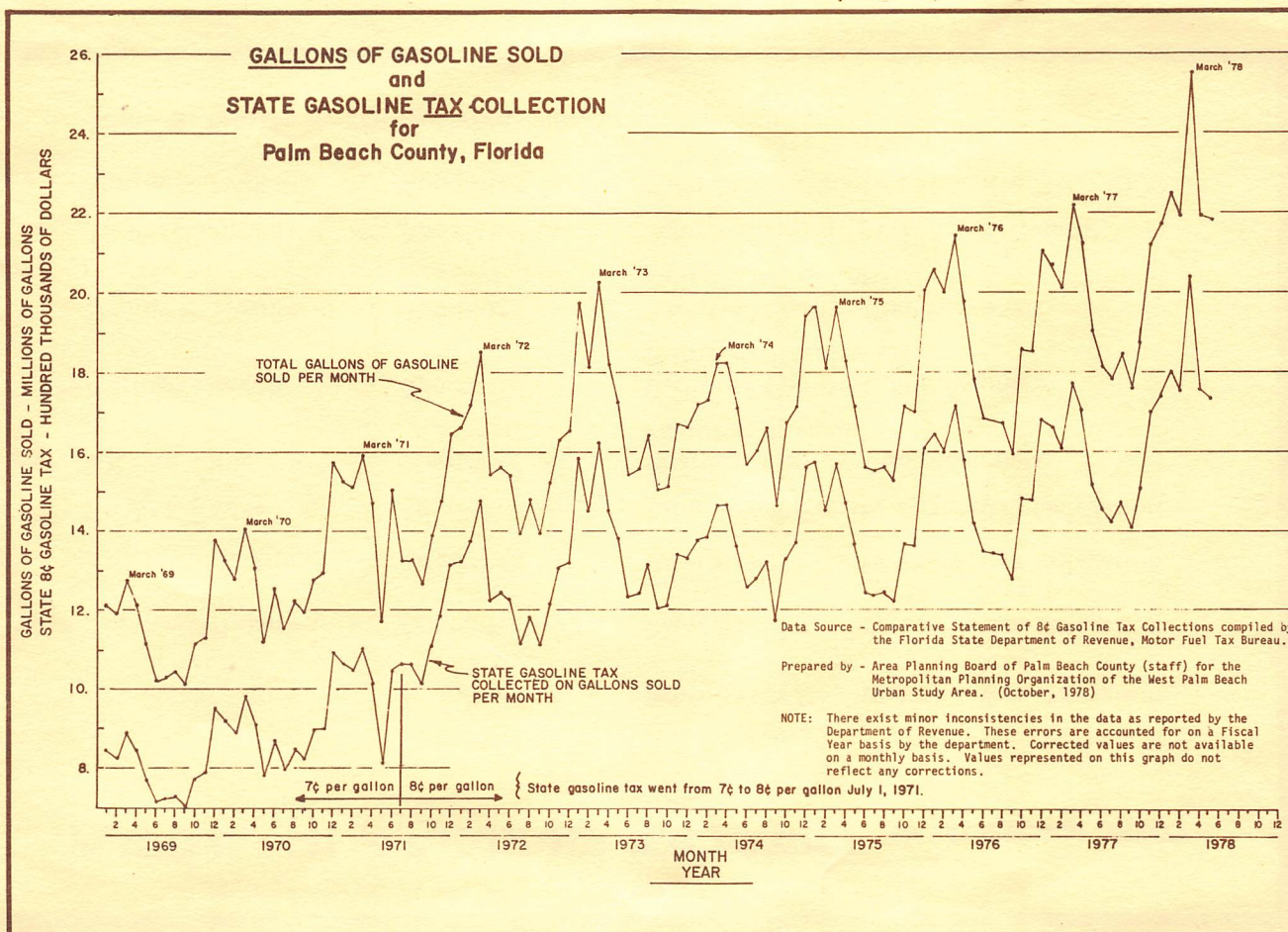
Renewable energy sources suggest a number of possible indigenous energy resources that could be utilized by the County either at present or at some point in the future. As indigenous sources, they would be able to provide a dependable and uninterrupted energy supply that would reduce reliance on imported fuels. Alternate sources have a number of other advantages. They are virtually free, seemingly inexhaustible, and present few known adverse environmental effects. However, before widespread use of alternate energy sources can be made, a number of barriers must be overcome.

Even with alternate sources presently used, some severe technological problems still exist which inhibit greater use. Certain of these potential sources, especially ocean power, require a lengthy period of design, experimentation and testing before they can offer any alleviation of current County energy problems. Another constraint to the expanded use of these energy sources is cost. Such currently feasible energy sources as solar power and solid waste conversion are expensive and are currently not competitive with traditional fossil fuel. However, this constraint may be reduced as fossil fuel sources continue to escalate in price.

AREAWIDE ENERGY PLAN DEVELOPED

The final part of the Energy study will be devoted to the presentation of an Areawide Energy Policy Plan. The plan will document activities local governments can undertake in the institution of energy conservation and efficiency measures. The goal of the plan is to create an energy conscious community atmosphere which is responsive to the need for energy efficiency and conservation in all activities. The plan will focus on public education as a method of instituting energy conservation programs in the residential and transportation concerns.

The final report is expected to be available in July, 1979. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Area Planning Board (305) 683-9450.



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